

**California State Department of Social Services
ICWA Workgroup**

Hosted by
**Tule River Tribe
340 N. Reservation Road, Brafford Room
Porterville, CA 93257**

July 13, 2010

Minutes

- **Welcome/Introductions.** The previous meeting's minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
- **Administrative Office of the Courts Report.** Jennifer Walter, Attorney, Administrative Office of the Courts, presented a report. The Tribal Court/State Court Coalition held its first meeting on June 29, 2010, and discussed a number of jurisdictional and data issues. Discussion included the recognition and enforcement of protective orders, local protocols that are working, and statewide strategies. They also discussed the issue of sharing/allocating/coordinating jurisdiction, specifically in the area of child welfare cases. Members considered proposed legislation relating to tribal access to juvenile court records in the context of when there is a pending tribal court case and the tribal court needs access to court and agency records. The coalition reached consensus and referred the proposal amending Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 to the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee for further discussion and possible recommendation to the Judicial Council for legislative action. An agenda of the first coalition was emailed to workgroup members prior to the July workgroup meeting. Information regarding AOC's technical assistance, educational offerings, curriculum development, collaborations, and more can be found on the AOC's memorandum regarding their Tribal Projects Unit ICWA Initiative update (emailed prior to this meeting).
- **Legislative Update.** Nancy Currie, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, presented a report. AB 2418 is a foster care bill to continue to cover dependent youth age 18-21 to continue the provision of ICWA. The bill passed the Assembly without any issues, and moved forward with support to the Senate. It passed the Senate Human Services Committee and we are now waiting for the Judiciary Committee. AB 1325 went into effect on July 1, 2010. Additional legislative is in the process of being developed.
- **Subcommittee Updates.**
 - **AB 1325 Implementation.** Nicolle Larkins of CDSS' Child and Youth Permanency Branch presented a report. A draft of the second, more comprehensive All County Letter (ACL) that CDSS' Permanency Policy Bureau (PPB) has been working on went out to stakeholders in June. Suggested edits were received, mostly pertaining to fundamental issues having to do with how adoptions are facilitated. There are differences between counties, the state district offices and the private adoption

agencies in how adoptions are handled. The target date for distribution of this ACL is late-August.

- **Regulations.** Emergency Regulations on AB 1325 are on hold momentarily while other areas, such as the ACL and training, are in process. Nicolle will inform the workgroup when work on the TCA regulations resumes.
- **Training.** Three tentative dates have been scheduled, but the dates have not yet been confirmed. One training workshop will be held in Northern California, one in Central, and one in Southern California. Nicolle would like feedback as to how many people plan to attend and which staff do counties want to send (policy, permanency workers and adoption specialists).
- **Forms.** The new and revised forms are in the sign-off stage. Once approved, they will be available on the website. (Now available at http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_271.htm.)

- **ICWA Training Subcommittee.** Ashley Franklin presented a report. Two workshops were presented at the recent Statewide ICWA Conference held in Pala, California. Lee Ann Kelly, Nancy Currie, Tom Lidot and Margaret Orrantia helped facilitate discussions during the workshops in order to gather input, especially from the tribal community to identify what the community sees as key elements for training. The goal of that is to make the curriculum and a toolkit available at no cost. Currently, there is none for tribal workers at no cost. Core elements were identified. The idea is to make the curriculum consistent for the counties as well as for tribal workers. The elements were categorized into areas identifying skills, knowledge and values. Online training for some of the curriculum versus what really needs to be taught in a classroom setting will be explored.

Theresa Sam revisited the discussion regarding CalSWEC, and asked if a tribal representative from each region sits on CalSWEC. Other than Loleta Garfield and possibly Matthew West, there was no other known ICWA representative, particularly for the southern region.

- **17th Annual Statewide ICWA Conference.** Nancy Currie presented this update. The conference was held June 21-22, 2010 at the Pala Casino Resort and Spa. The conference was well attended with over 250 participants. There was a good cross-section of people working in various areas of child welfare.
- **Other Issues/Announcements.**
 - Liz DeRouen requested some discussion about System Improvement Plans (SIPs) regarding process and timelines. Ashley explained that SIPs are on a cycle and that different counties do them at different times. The process begins with the Peer Quality Case Review (PQCR), moves into a county self-assessment, and ends with the SIP. The final documents are posted online. There is also a link to the triennial schedule. Theresa Sam said she was most interested in Fresno and Madera counties. Ashley said that we would send the link to the workgroup.
- **Next Workgroup Meeting.** The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2010, and will be held at CDSS Headquarters in Sacramento, CA.